

Congressman Rob Wittman (VA-1) today voted in favor of the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Resolution (H.Con.Res. 25), releasing the following statement:

"Today, the House made progress by passing this budget blueprint to rein in out-of-control spending and return to the regular order of Congressional business. I supported this legislation today because of its focus on a balanced budget without ignoring the needs of so many across this nation. This legislation addresses tough issues: preserving programs such as Medicare, without a single change for seniors currently in the program or those over 55 years of age. Medicare as we know it cannot be sustained; we must reform it to sustain the program into the future.

"While I voted for this measure, I remain concerned with how budgeting decisions are made for defense. I believe strongly that strategy must drive the budget for defense, not the other way around. While sequestration continues to be an issue, this budget restores important funding to our nation's defense budget for 2014. Defense has already been cut to the point where our military leaders have said further cuts would be "catastrophic." We cannot solve our budget issues on the backs of our all-volunteer force. I believe the House must continue to pursue answers on what exactly it takes to fund our nation's military strategy, and not continue to ask our men and women in uniform to do more with less. I look forward to continued discussion on defense issues as we approach consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act. It is our Constitutional duty, laid out in Article 1, section 8, that we provide for the common defense of this nation. It is paramount that we maintain a professional force that is effectively manned, trained, and equipped and ready to respond with overwhelming superiority to the national security threats and challenges that exist in this uncertain world.

"As we are faced with these tough decisions, we must fairly and equitably look at all areas of the budget for cost-savings, not just our federal employees or the military.

"Overall, I applaud Chairman Ryan's goal of a responsible, balanced budget in 10 years without asking more of hardworking taxpayers. So many folks are frustrated with Washington these days because of partisan, political behavior and last-minute bickering on critical issues. By returning to regular order, the House today took an important first step. It is my hope that the House can continue on a path of order and balance in federal spending for the next fiscal year."

*Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He serves on the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Armed Services Committee where he is the Chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee.*